



Press Release

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701

(800) 691-9987 • (208) 334-1507 • (208) 334-1114 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov



Released: September 23, 2010

Media Contact: Vince Matthews

Idaho's 2009 Potato Crop Valued at \$855 Million

The final value of Idaho's 2009 potato crop was \$855 million, surpassing 2008's record value of \$833 million by \$21.8 million. The market year average price received by growers was \$6.45 per cwt, down from last year's record \$7.15 per cwt. Fresh prices averaged \$4.25 per cwt, a sharp drop from the previous year, but market year average processing prices were at a record \$7.70 per cwt. Idaho's growers sold 122 million cwt from their 2009 crop while using 1.00 million cwt on the farm for seed, feed and household consumption. The remaining 9.20 million cwt was lost to shrinkage, decay and dumping. Fresh market sales accounted for 37.2 million cwt of the 2009 crop, up 21 percent from the 2008 crop, and processing accounted for 71.5 million cwt, up 5 percent from the 2008 crop. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used a total of 79.4 million cwt of 2009 crop potatoes compared to 77.3 million cwt used in 2008. Of the total processed, 71.5 million cwt were Idaho potatoes. Processing in Idaho and Malheur County accounted for 54.0 percent of Idaho's production compared to 58.5 percent of the 2008 crop. Idaho's 2009 production of 133 million cwt accounted for 34 percent of the entire U.S. Fall production of 394 million cwt. The Pacific Northwest: Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, collectively, totaled 241 million cwt or 61 percent of the U.S. Fall production.

For the United States, the value of all potatoes produced from the 2009 crop is estimated at \$3.52 billion, down 7 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$8.19 per cwt, is down \$0.90 from 2008. Sales from the 2009 potato crop totaled 398 million cwt, up 3 percent from 2008. Processors used 256 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2009 crop, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 115 million cwt, 5 percent above the previous year. Seed sales of 20.2 million cwt are down 3 percent from 2008. Sales for livestock feed, at 6.53 million cwt, are eight times more than the previous year. Shrinkage and loss are estimated at 29.1 million cwt for 2009, up 10 percent from 2008. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.19 million cwt, 44 percent above the previous season. Growers kept 3.35 million cwt for seed on their own farms, 1 percent higher than a year earlier.